THE

# CANTERBURY

WEEKLY

WEEK 3, TERM 4 FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2026



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

# DAN WALKER



# Forty Speech Nights On: A Story Worth Inheriting

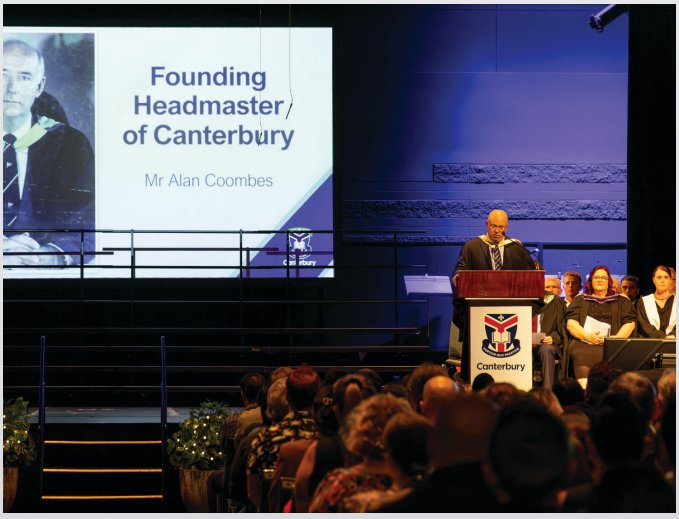
On Tuesday evening, the Logan Entertainment Centre was full for Canterbury's 40th Senior School Speech Night. It was a night to celebrate our students, and it was also the first public step into our 40th anniversary year.

I chose to begin with our origin story, because Canterbury was never a certainty. In the years before it opened, our founding chair, Rev. Trevor Cichero, studied the building estimates and came to a committee meeting ready to recommend that the whole venture be abandoned. A single voice in that room urged the committee to step out in faith, and they did. Families then paid school fees in advance to a school with no buildings, no facilities and no staff, and in 1987 seventy-four students walked onto a former dairy farm at Waterford. Founding Headmaster Coombes left his headship in NSW and, on a leap of faith, joined Rev. Cichero's start-up venture. Many of those who built the College are still part of our community, and their stories will fill the publication we launch on Foundation Day in March.

Why tell that story on a night about awards? Because almost everything we value here was once someone else's sacrifice. A school is not simply a service we use. It is a community we join, and joining a community means inheriting its story. That is why Gratitude became one of our College Values.

It is also why, throughout our 40th year, Gordon Royall's cowbell will ring to start each school day: a small, daily reminder of how all of this began.

The founders prepared a school for children they would never teach. Today, we call that work World Ready by Design, pursued through the Four Dimensions of academics; character, service and leadership; the performing arts; and sport. 2026 gave plenty to celebrate: Microsoft Beacon School status, the best NAPLAN results in the Junior School's history following the Senior School's record in 2025, the highest cocurricular participation the College has seen, third place in TAS, launch of the groundbreaking Talngai Precinct, and more than $150,000 raised for a range of charities.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

# DAN WALKER



But of course, the night belonged to our students. Congratulations to our Fortior Quo Paratior prize winners:

**YEAR 7**
*Fortior Quo Paratior*
**Alex W**

**YEAR 8**
*Fortior Quo Paratior*
**Asher S**

**YEAR 9**
*Fortior Quo Paratior*
**Harry B**

**YEAR 10**
*Fortior Quo Paratior*
**Milla S**

**YEAR 11**
*Fortior Quo Paratior*
**Noah M**

**YEAR 12**
*Fortior Quo Paratior*
**Cooper M**

to our year-level duces:

**YEAR 7**
*Dux*
**Ania M**

**YEAR 8**
*Dux*
**Pegella B**

**YEAR 9**
*Dux*
**Tayja S**

**YEAR 10**
*Dux*
**Mikael S**

**YEAR 11**
*Dux*
**Kaitlyn B**

and to the students who entered the Principal's Honour Roll for Academics, Sport, and Performing Arts:

**Academics:**
Liam M, Allegra W, Ramon Z

**Sport:**
Shubham B, Ryley E, Kaela G, Max N, Lucas N, Henry W, Ellora W

**Performing Arts:**
Kevin J, Chris K, Isabella O, Henry Z

Thank you to the staff who made the evening possible, and to the families and community members who supported the event. In our fortieth year, our motto has never felt more fitting: the better prepared, the stronger.



FROM HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

# NICK STANSBIE



## Senior School Investiture Ceremony

Last week, the Canterbury College community gathered for one of the most significant events on the Senior School calendar, our annual Investiture Assembly. This special occasion marked the formal appointment of our student leadership team for 2027 and celebrated the beginning of a new chapter for our incoming Year 12 cohort.

The ceremony commenced with the presentation of Year 12 badges to every member of the Class of 2027. As they received this important symbol of their senior status, students also made their Year 12 pledge, committing themselves to lead with integrity, service, and purpose in the year ahead.

We then formally appointed our student leaders, including Activity Leaders, House Vice Captains, and our thirteen School Prefects. Each of the prefects was presented with a symbol of their leadership by their predecessor from 2026. The ceremony culminated in the investiture of Noah Meier and Rose Pincott as Canterbury College School Captains for 2027. Their appointment reflects the confidence their peers and staff have in their capacity to lead our community with vision, humility, and enthusiasm.

We were privileged to welcome back William Glass, Canterbury's 2017 School Captain, who delivered an inspiring address to our students. Reflecting on his experiences at Canterbury and his journey since graduation, William shared how leadership opportunities at school helped shape his character, teamwork, and ability to receive feedback and grow.

He encouraged students to listen to the wisdom of parents, teachers, and mentors, reminding them that effective leadership begins with service, humility, and strong personal values. William also reflected on his Christian faith and its importance in his life.

A highlight of the ceremony was the unveiling of the Senior Class theme for 2027: "Foster the Flame, Fuel the Fire." This theme was developed by our thirteen School Prefects during their recent leadership retreat and captures both the spirit of our community and the aspirations of the graduating class.

The wonderful logo was designed by Anna Thompson, our Spirituality Captain, following the Prefects Retreat last week:



FROM HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

# NICK STANSBIE







In their School Captain's Address, Noah and Rose shared personal reflections on leadership and outlined their vision for the year ahead. Rose spoke about learning that leadership is not limited to formal titles but can be expressed through initiative, service, encouragement, and helping others succeed. Drawing on a quote from Round Square founder Kurt Hahn, she challenged students to recognise their untapped potential and pursue opportunities beyond their comfort zones.

Noah reflected on the importance of authenticity, describing how his involvement in music taught him the value of pursuing personal passions rather than conforming to expectations.

Together, they explained that the 2027 theme celebrates Canterbury's rich 40-year history while inspiring students to contribute to its future. Using the symbolism of fire, they described ambition, growth, passion, and community as qualities that unite Canterbury students. Their message encouraged every student to embrace new opportunities, support one another, discover new passions, and work together to strengthen the vibrant culture that makes Canterbury such a special place.

The ceremony was a fitting celebration of leadership, service, and aspiration, and we look forward with great excitement to all that the Class of 2027 will achieve in the year ahead.

FROM HEAD OF SPORT AND ACTIVITIES - JUNIOR SCHOOL

# DAN HUNTER



## Years 3-6 Interhouse Swimming Carnival

The Year 3-6 Interhouse Swimming Carnival was a fantastic celebration of participation, determination, and House spirit. Students should be congratulated on their outstanding behaviour throughout the day, demonstrating respect and sportsmanship. Their enthusiasm and support for one another created a positive and enjoyable atmosphere.

We sincerely thank our parents and families for their support and encouragement. Your presence and enthusiasm helped make the carnival a memorable occasion for all students.

A special thank you also goes to our staff, whose collective effort, organisation, and commitment ensured the day ran smoothly. From preparation and officiating to supervision and scoring, every staff member played an important role in the carnival's success.

Congratulations to all Houses on their efforts. The final placings were as follows:

CRANMER
1st

BECKET
Follow our Pride
2nd

KIME
We Will Always Come Back
3rd

GOLDSWORTHY
Strength in Courage
4th

RAMSEY
Stronger Together
5th

TEMPLE
Never Leave a Mate Behind
6th

| AGE GROUP | RANK | GIRLS | BOYS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8 YEARS | 1ST | Thea H | Arthur H |
| | 2ND | Georgia C | Huxley L |
| | 3RD | Arianna C | Thea H |
| 9 YEARS | 1ST | Isla C | Milos R |
| | 2ND | Amelia H | Luca P |
| | 3RD | Margo R | Ari M |
| 10 YEARS | 1ST | Janiah S | Campbell H |
| | 2ND | Olivia T | Nate M |
| | 3RD | Effie C | Leo M |
| 11 YEARS | 1ST | Darcey H | Keenan R |
| | 2ND | Emily M | Ezra S |
| | 3RD | Florence O | Saleh M |
| 12 YEARS | 1ST | Heidi L | Dejan R |
| | 2ND | Eloise C | Tate H |
| | 3RD | Angie N | James-Brave N |

Well done to our Age Champions and Cranmer House on winning the 2026 Interhouse Swimming Carnival. Attention now turns to preparation for the Junior TAS Swimming Carnival in Term 1, 2027. Families interested in squad selection and carnival preparation are encouraged to view the MyCC - Junior TAS Swimming Squad Screening Sessions page for further information.



# Years 3-6 Interhouse Swimming Carnival





FROM HEAD OF LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES

# ANITA PENDREIGH



## Using Competition to Promote Reader Engagement

There is nothing like a bit of friendly (or not-so-friendly) competition to bring out the best in our students, and what better way to increase student engagement in recreational reading than to make it a competition?

In Term 3, the Year 6 students were challenged to take me on in a reading marathon. Affectionately titled “Mrs Pendreigh versus Year 6,” the challenge was to see how many words each side could read in the 10-week term. While the mathematical formula for calculating the number of words in a book is complex, the process was kept consistent for every submission in the challenge.

**W = P × A – C × A**

Where:

**W** = Estimated total words in the novel
**P** = Number of pages in the book
**A** = Average number of words per full page
**C** = Number of chapters

In the early weeks, the students developed strategies and questioned whether it was better to read many short books or persevere with longer novels. By Week 4, I had pulled away to a significant lead, with more than 360,000 words read.

For a book to be considered, it had to be finished before being added to the total, and a report card was filled in to ensure that students (and I) had genuinely read the books they claimed.

By Week 6, it seemed possible that the challenge participants might reach a combined total of one million words.

By the end of Week 8, the Year 6 students had overtaken me. Although, there was a valiant push from both sides in Week 9, with the lead changing hands twice, it was the Year 6 students who claimed victory in Week 10 with a staggering total of 1,382,877 words read. I submitted a brave final count of 1,335,693 words.

While there was no grand trophy for Year 6 to celebrate their win, students learned several valuable lessons:

- Start with something small.
- Read something you love.
- Re-read a favourite story.
- Choose a book by its cover.
- Choose a book based on a great review.
- Read every book in a series.
- It’s okay not to finish a book if you are not enjoying it.

Here’s to next year’s challenge, which we hope will be even bigger and better for everyone involved. Always remember to read what you love!

FROM COORDINATOR OF ROCK SCHOOL/MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

# SIMON LANE



## Friday Night Rocks





Last Friday, the CEC came alive with the sound of guitars, drums, and vocals as Friday Night Rocks took over the stage. Featuring bands from Canterbury's Rock School program, the concert delivered an energetic evening of live music. A fantastic crowd of parents, families, and friends packed the venue, cheering on every young performer and creating the atmosphere of a true rock show.

Across the evening, 11 bands powered through an exciting mix of rock songs and styles, filling the CEC with energy. Each performance showcased the hard work, teamwork, and musicianship developed through the Rock School program. Between sets, the food truck kept the crowd fuelled and added to the festival-like feel of the night.

There were some standout moments to celebrate. The Junior Rock Band hit the stage for its very first performance, earning huge applause. It was also brilliant to welcome back the Acoustic Girls Band and the Taipan Tenors, who added their own distinctive sound and energy to the line-up. Finally, the Senior Rock Bands turned everything up to bring the show to a fantastic close.

This was a great way to celebrate our graduating Year 12 students, who gave their final performance after several years in the Rock School program.

Congratulations to all performers, their instructors and everyone who helped make Friday Night Rocks truly rock!

## FROM YEARS 9-10 STUDENTS

CHELSEA B, FAITH W, AND ISAIAH M



# Round Square International Zoom Call

Last week, 15 students across Years 9 and 10 participated in Canterbury's first-ever Round Square Postcard! A "Postcard" is an interactive virtual platform where students from schools around the world, who are in the Round Square community, interact with each other and share ideas and experiences. In this event, we learnt about the foreign languages studied in different schools, and shared cultural experiences.

As Canterbury hosted this session, at the very start we introduced our school, and we also taught students about the Australian custom of an Acknowledgement of Country. We also shared personal stories of our own language journeys.



The main focus of a Postcard is to then break into small groups where we could engage in more personal discussions surrounding our theme of "More than Words: Exploring Languages, Cultures and Connections". In total, 50 students attended our first ever Postcard, and we were really excited to be hosts and gain an understanding of the festivals, customs, and traditions that students learn in other countries.

As the session went on, our students found similar interests and learnt new words, like Namaste. Participating in the Round Square activity also equipped us with new skills, such as leading and structuring online presentations, directing conversations and summarising 'chat' contributions. Everyone was really keen to do a Postcard again, and we strongly encourage students to put their hand up to take part in future Round Square initiatives!

***A Recap from Isaiah M:***

As moderator, I shared highlights from group discussions. We explored languages students are learning, informal methods such as K-Pop and television, and cultural traditions including Diwali and Chinese Lunar New Year. I enjoyed the relaxed, friendly atmosphere and discovered the diversity of dialects spoken across India, including how learning another dialect can help families communicate across regions.

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

GETTING TO KNOW JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER
**BEN WOOLACOTT**



**What is something you have changed your mind about as an educator, and what shifted your thinking?**
I used to think that to gain the attention of my students, I needed to be as engaging as possible. So, I used to dress up as Professor Wooly (for Science), Monsieur Wooly (for Art), or Old Man Wooly (for History). I realise now that it's not about being the most engaging, but more about showing that I am passionate and interested in what I am teaching.

**What do you want students to still remember about your lessons in 10 years, and why that, rather than the content?**
I mean… it would be great if my students could remember the content of my lessons! Failing that, I really hope that my students remember my classroom as one in which they felt safe to be themselves. I still remember how my Year 3 teacher made me feel by valuing me for my own particular (peculiar*) strengths.

**What is something Canterbury does that you have not seen done as well elsewhere?**
I know this is a common thread and a common answer, but seriously… United Nations Day is absolutely brilliant!

**Describe a moment recently that reminded you why you do this work.**
Teaching, as I'm sure we can all agree, can certainly be a testing way to earn a wage. I was mired in one of those particularly difficult weeks, where nothing seems to work and everything is due, when I received a parent email, out of the blue, thanking me for the impact my teaching team was having on this student… strangely, everything was suddenly all worth it!

## Rapid Fire *questions*

**What is one thing that people would be surprised to learn about you?**

I am a big fan of Les Misérables!

**What is your favourite way to spend your weekend?**

Feet in the sand, fishing for whatever comes my way…

**What is your favourite Canterbury event or tradition?**

United Nations Day!

**What is the best piece of advice you were given early in your career?**

Don't be afraid to be yourself. Students respond better when they know exactly who you are.

**If you weren't working in education, what would you be doing?**

I'd really love to be an archaeologist.

**What is a subject you wish you had studied more seriously at school?**

I mean, I was (am) a bit of a nerd, but I really wish I had continued playing the piano.

# COMING UP NEXT

**Year 11 Sport and Recreation Incursion**
Monday 26 October

**Interhouse Netball Knockout**
Monday 26 October - Wednesday 28 October

**A.B. Paterson Public Speaking Competition (Years 7-9)**
Monday 26 October

**Year 12 Exam Block Connections**
Tuesday 27 October

**A Day in the Life: Year 7 2027 Orientations**
Wednesday 28 October

**MusicFest: Junior School Band**
Wednesday 28 October

**Year 9 Outdoor Education**
Wednesday 28 October - Friday 30 October

**Pink Ribbon Morning Tea**
Thursday 29 October

**Pink Stumps Staff vs Students Cricket Match**
Thursday 29 October

**Junior School Canterbury's Got Talent**
Thursday 29 October

**Junior School Players Drama Production**
Thursday 29 October

**Year 9 Outdoor Education Returning Ceremony**
Friday 30 October

**Ramsey Family House Chapel**
Sunday 1 November



Canterbury

Join us for our

# Annual Pink Ribbon Breast Cancer High Tea

## Thursday 29 October 2026
## 10:00am - 12:00pm

## Canterbury Function Centre

Please RSVP here by Monday 26 October

National Breast Cancer Foundation

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

2026 Senior School Co-Curricular Awards Assembly | **Photo Gallery**

Canterbury's Pink Ribbon High Tea | **View More**

2026 Years 9 and 10 Micro Credentials | **Photo Gallery**

Junior School 2027 Dance Auditions - Registrations Closing Soon | **View More**

2026 TAS Athletics - Three-Peat Champions | **Read More**

2026 JTAS Athletics - Boys Champions & Overall Runners-Up | **Read More**

2027 Prep - Year 6 New Student Information and Orientation Morning | **RSVP Here**